



Prevent. Empower. Protect.

GOLD SHOVEL STANDARD MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Gold Shovel Standard (the “Association”) is a nonprofit corporation operated within the meaning of I.R.C. 501(c)(3), incorporated in the State of Arizona. Membership is open to municipalities, water and sewer providers, gas and electric utilities, telecom and cable providers, and such other entities as may be deemed appropriate by the Association from time to time.

Applicant Name: _____

Applicant Address: _____

Contact Person: _____
Name/Title Email Phone

Alt Contact Person: _____
Name/Title Email Phone

Uniform Membership Requirements

All members in Gold Shovel Standard share a uniform set of requirements, which fall into the following four categories: Reliance, Consistency, Promotion and Cross-Reference.

Reliance: Begin to rely on Gold Shovel Standard.

Choosing to embrace Gold Shovel Standard to reduce damages to buried utilities means that the member is committing to *rely* partially on Gold Shovel Standard in evaluating excavation vendors and bids and/or in other operations. More specifically, the commitment upon members is to *begin a process* of adopting Gold Shovel Standard as a component of its bidding or vendor hiring evaluations and/or other operations. Each member should determine how much weight and import to give the Gold Shovel Standard certification or an excavator’s Gold Shovel Standard metrics, as makes sense for the member’s operations. The timeframe to complete the migration will vary between members, and members are asked to make consistent progress at the pace that makes sense for their resources.

Consistency: Endeavor to apply CGA Best Practices,* particularly with regard to locates and markings.

Having members/operators using a common reference allows for consistent expectations across the spectrum and involves all parties, both vendors and members/operators, conforming to a standard.



Prevent. Empower. Protect.

GOLD SHOVEL STANDARD MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Promotion: Gold Shovel Standard grows when members share the benefits of the program.

The power of Gold Shovel Standard grows exponentially as more and more members embrace it. To that end, all members commit to publicly supporting the program and encouraging others to support it. It's expected that new members announce their membership via press release. Most typically, announcements would be made to the public, to their excavation vendors or subcontractors and for the benefit of their peer companies. Likewise, members can and should use the GSS trademark in the promotion of their operations and goals, and expect GSS to use the member's name in promoting the program.

Cross Reference: Damage data is used to confirm incident reporting by excavators.

Gold Shovel Standard is underpinned by the incident-report-mandate, requiring all excavators to report all incidents. To ensure compliance, all members allow GSS to cross-reference the member's damage data, to incidents reported to the program by excavators. That is, private member incident data that details which companies have incidents on their network is leveraged to ensure compliance with the reporting mandate. Member data remains private, but is used for the cross-reference purpose.

Fees: Annual membership fees are set by the Gold Shovel Association Board of Directors. Currently the annual fees are \$2400 for corporations and \$1500 for municipalities and an invoice will be sent later. If the fees present an obstacle to membership, the Association may, at its discretion, waive fees for those members with difficulty paying or hardship. Please attach a letter detailing the difficulty or hardship for review, if applicable.

We have reviewed the expectations above, and would like to apply for membership in the Gold Shovel Association.

NOTE: Nothing in this document is intended to create a legally binding obligation on any applicant or the Association.

GSS Approval: _____
Name Signature Date

* The Best Practices are a publication of the Common Ground Alliance, a District of Columbia, nonprofit corporation. The Common Ground Alliance and the Gold Shovel Association are independent organizations and are not affiliated. References by the Gold Shovel Association and the Common Ground Alliance Best Practices do not express or imply an endorsement by either organization of the other or its programs. While the Gold Shovel Association's certification requirements for excavators currently require compliance with the Common Ground Alliance Best Practices, the Common Ground Alliance, itself, does not maintain such a requirement.